

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130150
ORIGIN HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SCS-06 L-03 /042 R

DRAFTED BY SSA:WYOFFEE
APPROVED BY EUR/CE:WMWOESSNER
EUR/CE:JJHURLEY

-----083698 230431Z /17

P R 222337Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ZURICH
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 130150

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SWEL, CFED, SZ

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SECURITY - AGREEMENT WITH SWITZERLAND

REF: BERN 1816, HURLEY-KEMPE TELCON OF MAY 22

1. THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING WITH THE SWISS FEDERAL SOCIAL INSURANCE OFFICE (SFSIO) A VISIT OF A TEAM OF SIX SSA OFFICIALS TO BERN AND GENEVA DURING THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE VISIT, ALREADY DISCUSSED INFORMALLY BY SSA AND SFSIO OFFICIALS YOFFEE AND WOLF, WOULD BE TO INCREASE SSA UNDERSTANDING OF THE SWISS SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AS WELL AS ITS ADMINISTRATION OF SWITZERLAND'S INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. THEY HOPE THIS WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DRAFT US-SWISS SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT THAT WOULD CONTAIN PROVISIONS BOTH ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES AS WELL AS ON TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATION IN A SINGLE INSTRUMENT, RATHER THAN IN SEPARATE INSTRUMENTS AS UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS BEEN US PRACTICE UP UNTIL NOW. IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY FORMAL TECHNICAL DECISIONS ON A DRAFT TEXT DURING THE VISIT.

2. IN BERN THE TEAM WOULD APPRECIATE A GENERAL ORIENTATION ON SWISS LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE

SWISS SYSTEM, WITH WHICH SOME OF THE TEAM MEMBERS MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR. IN GENEVA THE TEAM WILL WANT TO VISIT THE OFFICE THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTUAL ADMINISTRATION OF SWITZERLAND'S EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, IN ORDER TO FAMILIARIZE ITSELF WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES.

3. THE EMBASSY MAY INFORM SWISS OFFICIALS THAT THEY WILL BE INVITED TO UNDERTAKE A SIMILAR VISIT TO SSA'S FACILITY IN THE US, EITHER INDEPENDENTLY OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DRAFT TEXT. THE NAMES OF THE TEAM MEMBERS, THEIR EXPECTED TIME OF ARRIVAL, AND THEIR NEEDS FOR HOTEL AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE EMBASSY AS SOON AS RECEIVED. IN THE MEANTIME, EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL DESIRABLE MEETINGS, FOR EXAMPLE WITH SWISS-AMERICAN CHAMBER OFFICIALS, WOULD BE WELCOMED. VANCE

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